

### **R E M A R K S**

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

### **INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Applicant's representative, John Ignatowski, spoke with Examiner Patel on September 25, 2006 via telephone. Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed (i) the "PPP over Simple Data Link (SDL) using SONET/SDH with ATM-like framing" IDS reference, (ii) the finality of the current Office Action and (iii) Applicant's representative provided a brief overview of the invention to the Examiner. Regarding the IDS reference, the Examiner stated that he would consider the document if a new PTO-1449 form listing only the document and including "pages 1-3" was submitted. The Examiner further stated that only the PTO-1449 form should be submitted without the actual reference. Regarding the finality of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that no new rejections are presented in the current Office Action. The claims were not discussed. No samples were presented. No agreement was reached regarding the claims.

### **SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification, for example, on page 13 lines 14-17 and FIG. 3 as

originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added and no new issues are believed to be raised. As the amendments should only require a cursory review, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered per MPEP §714.13.

#### **OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS**

The objection to the drawings in view of the March 14, 2006 amendments is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The claimed database circuit is shown as 130 in FIG. 2. The claimed pointer values are shown as POINTER in FIG. 2 with further examples in FIG. 5. The claims parameters are shown as PARAM in FIG. 2 with examples in the Parameter column in FIG. 5. The claimed assembly is shown as 100 in FIG. 2. The claimed network protocol is shown in block 142 in FIG. 4. The claimed incoming packet is shown as INP1 in FIG. 2. The claimed second parameter is shown in blocks 156 in FIG. 4. The claimed outgoing packet is shown as OUTP1 in FIG. 2. The claimed second incoming packet is shown as INP2 in FIG. 2. The claimed second transmit frame is shown as TX2 in FIG. 2. As such, the amended claims are illustrated in the drawings and the objection should be withdrawn.

Applicant's representative respectfully declines the request to re-label FIG. 1 from "conventional" to "prior art". MPEP 608.02(g) does not require the use of the phrase "prior art".

### **OBJECTION TO THE TITLE**

The objection to the title is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The current title "Programmable Protocol Processing Engine for Network Packet Devices" appears to be indicative of an invention to which the claims are directed. In particular, claim 1 provides (in part) a processing circuit (e.g., programmable protocol processing engine) configured to process at a particular one of a plurality of first parameters defined by a network protocol in an incoming packet (e.g., network packets). As such, the title appears to be indicative of the claimed invention and the objection to the title should be withdrawn.

### **OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS**

The objection to claims 1, 10 and 20 for informalities is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was amended in the June 27, 2006 amendment as suggested in the previous Office Action to add the word "of". Claim 20 was amended as suggested in the previous Office Action to add the word "to". As such, the objections withdrawn.

The suggestion in the current Office Action to change "said corresponding pointer value" to "said one of said corresponding pointer values" in both claims 1 and 10 is respectfully declined. Each of the first parameters has an

associated pointer value in a one to one correspondence (e.g., five first parameters means five pointer values). As such, the limitation "said corresponding pointer value" is the correct association to "a particular one of said first parameters." Therefore, the objections to claims 1, 10 and 20 should be withdrawn.

#### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102**

The rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al. '966 (hererafter Ogawa) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Ogawa concerns a data receiving device which enables simultaneous execution of processes of a plurality of protocol hierarchies and generates header end signals (Title).

The preamble of claim 1 provides an assembly. The Office Action alleges that the text in column 3, lines 44-49 and column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 22 of Ogawa describes an item similar to the claimed assembly. Based on the cites provided in the Office Action, the Office appears to be asserting that a data receiving device shown in FIGS. 1 and 26 of Ogawa is similar to the claimed assembly.

Claim 1 further provides a database circuit configured to store a plurality of pointer values. Despite the assertion on page 9 of the Office Acton, the text in column 6, lines 38-67 of Ogawa

appears to be silent regarding a database circuit in the data receiving device (alleged similar to the claimed assembly):

FIG. 28 is a flowchart showing a sequence of the repeating operation when the repeater is a bridge;

FIG. 29 is a flowchart showing a sequence of the repeating operation when the repeater is a router; and

FIG. 30 is a flowchart showing a sequence of the repeating operation when the repeater is a router having to a firewall function.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Preferred embodiments according to the present invention will now be described in detail hereunder with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a data receiving device of a first embodiment to which the present invention is applied.

As shown in FIG. 1, the first embodiment basically comprises: an input data control circuit 22; a capture register circuit 24; a protocol recognition circuit 26; a sequence selection circuit 28; a sequence counter 30; a sequencer 32; and a header end timing detection circuit 36. The present invention further comprises a frame end detection circuit 34 and an interrupt generation circuit 38 in this embodiment, but the invention is not restricted to this structure for application. Various modes of the above-mentioned components can be considered, and a first cut-through circuit 23 may be provided to an output side of a pipeline register (which will be simply referred to as a pipeline hereunder) constituting the input data control circuit 22 as shown in ...

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Ogawa appear to explicitly disclose a database circuit configured to store a plurality of pointer values as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established. As such, the Office is again respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify by name and/or reference number one (or two) circuits in Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the claimed database circuit, what elements of Ogawa are allegedly similar to the pointer values and how those elements are related to the alleged database circuit in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(c) (2) or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, Applicant's representative respectfully traverses the assertions in the Office Action that "each one" means "only one". Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, copyright 1979, defines "each one" as a pronoun of "each". The word "each" is defined as "being one of two or more distinct individuals having a similar relation and often constituting an aggregate." The word "only" is defined as "a single fact or instance and nothing more or different." The phrases "each one" and "only one" have very different meanings. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the phrase "each one" to mean "only one" as alleged in the Office Action.

Claim 1 further provides a processing circuit configured to (i) process a particular one of the first parameters in an incoming packet received by the assembly in accordance with the corresponding pointer value to produce a second parameter and (ii) present an outgoing packet from the assembly containing the second parameter. Despite the assertion on page 9 of the Office Action, the text in column 13, lines 26-55 of Ogawa appears to be silent regarding a processing circuit in the data receiving device (alleged similar to the claimed assembly):

source network address; and the IP protocol information IP7, a destination network address. The IP protocol information IP8 is an optional field whose existence or length can be arbitrarily set.

TCP header data TCPH received in synchronism with WR20 to WR31 has TCP protocol information TC1 to TC9. The TCP protocol information TC1 indicates a receive port of the internetwork repeater using the data receiving device according this embodiment and the TCP protocol information TC2 indicates a transmit port. The TCP protocol information TC3 indicates a serial number of the received frame data. Further, TCP transmit data TCPD following the TCP header data TCPH is received. These TCP header data TCPH and the TCP transmit data TCPD are based on the TCP protocol.

Here, those based on the TCP protocol can be substituted by those based on the ICMP protocol or the UDP protocol.

Note that the IP protocol information IP1 is made up of parameters of Version (four bits), IHL (header length consisting of four bits) and TOS (type of service consisting of eight bits). Further, the IP protocol information IP4 is constituted by TTL (time to live, eight bits) and a protocol code representing a protocol of the transport layer. Incidentally, the TCP protocol information TC4 indicates an acknowledge number; the TCP protocol information TC5, an offset/flag; the TCP protocol information TC6, a window; the TCP protocol information TC8, an object pointer; and the TCP protocol information TC9, an optional field.

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Ogawa appear to explicitly disclose a processing circuit configured to (i) process a particular one of the first parameters in an incoming packet received by the assembly in accordance with the corresponding pointer value to produce a second parameter and (ii) present an outgoing packet from the assembly containing the second parameter as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established. As such, the Office is again respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify by name and/or reference number one (or two) circuits in Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the claimed processing circuit, what elements of Ogawa are allegedly similar to the particular parameter, the corresponding pointer value and the second parameter and how those elements are related to the alleged processing circuit in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

The preamble of claim 10 provides an assembly. The Office Action cites the text in column 3, lines 44-49 and column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 22 of Ogawa for describing an item allegedly similar to the claimed assembly. Based on the cites

provided in the Office Action, the Office appears to be asserting that a data receiving device shown in FIGS. 1 and 26 of Ogawa is similar to the claimed assembly.

Claim 10 further provides a first circuit configured to delineate a receive frame received from a first network having a first network protocol to produce an incoming packet. Despite the assertion on page 9 of the Office Action, the text in column 12, lines 41-49 and column 2, lines 5-14 of Ogawa appear to be silent regarding a circuit in the data receiving device (alleged similar to the claimed assembly) configured to delineate a receive frame from a network:

If the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation is started in the external computer using the interrupt signal IPS indicating the end timing for the header, the process is enabled with relay of the frame data rarely delayed. Additionally, if the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation for relaying the received frame data is started by the ID of the end timing for the frame data, the highly-reliable relay operation is enabled. (Col. 12 lines 41-49)

...

Here, an internetwork repeater by which two networks having the same MAC (Media Access Control) layer in the second layer of OSI are connected in the second layer is called a bridge or the like. An internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first through seventh layers of OSI is called a gateway or the like. Further, an internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first to third layers of OSI, are connected in the third layer such as one described later in this specification is called a router or the like. (Col. 2 lines 5-14)

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Ogawa appear to expressly disclose a first circuit configured to delineate a receive frame received from a first network having a first network protocol to produce an incoming packet as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established. As such, the Office is again respectfully requested



to either (i) clearly identify by name and/or reference number one (or two) circuits in Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the claimed first circuit, what elements of Ogawa are allegedly similar to the received frame, the first network and the first network protocol and how those elements are related to the alleged first circuit in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

Claim 10 further provides a second circuit configured to (i) store a plurality of pointer values for a plurality of first parameters defined by the first network protocol, wherein each one of said first parameters is associated with a corresponding one of the pointer values, (ii) process a particular one of the first parameters in the incoming packet in accordance with the corresponding pointer value to produce a second parameter, and (iii) present an outgoing packet containing the second parameter. Despite the assertion on page 9 of the Office Action, the text in column 12, lines 41-49 and column 2, lines 5-14 of Ogawa appears to be silent regarding a second circuit in the data receiving device (alleged similar to the claimed assembly):

If the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation is started in the external computer using the interrupt signal IPS indicating the end timing for the header, the process is enabled with relay of the frame data rarely delayed. Additionally, if the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation for relaying the received frame data is started by the ID of the end timing for the frame data, the highly-reliable relay operation is enabled. (Col. 12 lines 41-49)

...

Here, an internetwork repeater by which two networks having the same MAC (Media Access Control) layer in the second layer of OSI are connected in the second layer is called a bridge or the like. An internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first through seventh layers of OSI is called a gateway or the like. Further, an internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first to third layers of OSI,

are connected in the third layer such as one described later in this specification is called a router or the like. (Col. 2 lines 5-14)

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Ogawa appear to expressly disclose a second circuit configured to (i) store a plurality of pointer values for a plurality of first parameters defined by the first network protocol, wherein each one of said first parameters is associated with a corresponding one of the pointer values, (ii) process a particular one of the first parameters in the incoming packet in accordance with the corresponding pointer value to produce a second parameter, and (iii) present an outgoing packet containing the second parameter as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established. As such, the Office is again respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify by name and/or reference number one (or two) circuits in Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the claimed second circuit, what elements of Ogawa are allegedly similar to the pointer values, the first parameters, the first network protocol, the incoming packet and the second parameter and how those elements are related to the alleged second circuit in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

Claim 10 further provides a third circuit configured to frame the outgoing packet to present a transmit frame to a second network. Despite the assertion on page 10 of the Office Action, the text in column 12, lines 41-49 and column 2, lines 5-14 of

Ogawa appears to be silent regarding a third circuit in the data receiving device configured to frame outgoing packets:

If the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation is started in the external computer using the interrupt signal IPS indicating the end timing for the header, the process is enabled with relay of the frame data rarely delayed. Additionally, if the present embodiment is used in the internetwork repeater and the transmission operation for relaying the received frame data is started by the ID of the end timing for the frame data, the highly-reliable relay operation is enabled. (Col. 12 lines 41-49)

...

Here, an internetwork repeater by which two networks having the same MAC (Media Access Control) layer in the second layer of OSI are connected in the second layer is called a bridge or the like. An internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first through seventh layers of OSI is called a gateway or the like. Further, an internetwork repeater for connecting a plurality of networks having different first to third layers of OSI, are connected in the third layer such as one described later in this specification is called a router or the like. (Col. 2 lines 5-14)

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Ogawa appear to expressly disclose a third circuit configured to frame the outgoing packet to present a transmit frame to a second network as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established. As such, the Office is again respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify by name and/or reference number one (or two) circuits in Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the claimed third circuit, elements of Ogawa that are allegedly similar to the outgoing packet, the transmit frame and the second network and how those elements relate to the alleged third circuit in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2) or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

Claim 9 provides that the processing circuit is implemented as only hardware. Despite the assertion on page 12 of the Office Action, column 5, lines 8-38, column 1, lines 41-43 and

column 5, lines 43-45 of Ogawa do not appear to disclose that the data receiving device (alleged similar to the claimed assembly) is hardware only:

(X-series recommendations) relative to new data networks such as a line switching system, a packet switching system, digital private lines and others. (Column 1, lines 41-43)

Furthermore, when source/destination addresses, port numbers, socket numbers or protocol codes included in the headers of a plurality of protocol hierarchies are combined to create key data for retrieval and table retrieval is executed, the process required for the V-LAN (Virtual LAN) or the so-called "Firewall" to enhance security by restricting access to information can be executed at extremely-high speed, as well as the process in the bridge or the router.

In addition, if there is provided a cut-through selection circuit for selecting and outputting one of signals output from the first cut-through circuit and the second cut-through circuit, a cut-through system can be selected.

Further, if the input data control circuit has a configuration for taking out a destination address from the header in the protocol hierarchy for the received data and transmitting it to an external circuit, it is possible to readily cope with a multi-protocol system.

Furthermore, if information stored and/or held in the capture register circuit or a protocol of each protocol hierarchy identified by the protocol recognition circuit can be read out to an external circuit, various functions can be realized.

Moreover, if the input data control circuit has a function for verifying a checksum with respect to the received data frame and a function for transmitting a result of verification to an external circuit and the sequencer has a function for directing a timing at which the checksum operation is started and a timing at which results of the checksum operation are compared with each other to the input data control circuit, data can be verified with the simple configuration.

According to the present invention, processes for a plurality of protocol hierarchies for defining a protocol for the received frame data or partial processes thereof can be simply and efficiently carried out at the same time. Additionally, the data receiving device for effecting these processes can be easily and comprehensively constructed using the hardware. (Column 5, lines 7-45)

Nowhere in the above text, or in any other sections does Ogawa appear to explicitly disclose a processing circuit that is implemented as only hardware as presently claimed. Furthermore, no assertion of inherency is made in the Office Action. Therefore, *prima facie* anticipation has not been established and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant's representative respectfully traverses the assertion on page 3 of the Office Action that parameters are inherent to packets. The Microsoft Computer Dictionary, Fifth

Edition, copyright 2002, defines a "packet" as a "unit of information transmitted as a whole from one device to another on a network." The word "information" is defined as the "meaning of data as it is intended to be interpreted by people." As such, packets carry information and information is not necessarily parameters. Therefore, inherency has not been established as packets do not necessarily carry parameters.

Claims 2-6, 8 and 11-17 depend from claims 1 and 10, which are now believed to be allowable. As such, the above dependent claims are fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

#### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Ogawa in view of Official Notice is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Ogawa in view of Gabrick et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0161802 (hereafter Gabrick) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Ogawa in view of Wilford et al. '247 (hereafter Wilford) and Gabrick is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Ogawa in view of Yanagihara et al. '578 (hereafter Yanagihara) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Ogawa concerns a data receiving device which enables simultaneous execution of processes of a plurality of protocol hierarchies and generates header end signals (Title). Gabrick concerns a web presentation management system (Title). Wilford concerns an architecture for high speed class of service enabled linecard (Title). Yanagihara concerns a digital signal processor, processing method, digital signal recording/playback device and digital signal playback method (Title).

Regarding claim 7, the proposed motivations to modify Ogawa with the Official Notice appear to be improperly based on the claim. The proposed motivations, (i) "support handling of the packet related information" and (ii) "help processing information that is related to the packets" are too general because they could cover almost any alteration contemplated and do not address why the specific proposed modification would have been obvious. Broad conclusory statements regarding the obviousness of combining/modifying references, standing alone, are not "evidence."

As such, the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn for lack of evidence of motivation to combine/modify the references.

Claim 18 provides that the first circuit comprises a plurality of framing circuits configured to operate on a plurality of network protocols, wherein each one of the framing circuits operates on a corresponding one of the network protocols. Despite the assertion on page 15 of the Office Action, the text in column 3, lines 44-46 of Ogawa appears to be silent regarding multiple framing circuits. Therefore, Ogawa and Gabrick, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest that the first circuit comprises a plurality of framing circuits configured to operate on a plurality of network protocols, wherein each one of the framing circuits operates on a corresponding one of the network protocols as presently claimed.

Furthermore, the proposed motivation to modify Ogawa with the Gabrick appears to be improperly based on the claim. The proposed motivation, "support replicating and transferring information between two entities" is too general because it could cover almost any alteration contemplated and does not address why the specific proposed modification would have been obvious. A broad conclusory statement regarding the obviousness of combining/modifying references, standing alone, is not "evidence." As such, the rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn for lack of evidence of motivation to combine/modify the references.

Furthermore, Gabrick appears to be non-analogous art relative to Ogawa based on the respective US classifications.

Gabrick appears to have been selected only because it contains the claim phrase "unique network protocol", not because one of ordinary skill in the art would have considered it to be analogous art. Therefore, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established. As such, claim 18 is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 19 provides that the third circuit comprises a plurality of de-framing circuits configured to operate on a plurality of network protocols, wherein each one of the de-framing circuits operates on a corresponding one of the network protocols. Despite the assertion on page 16 of the Office Action, the text in column 2, line 59 to column 3, line 18 of Ogawa appears to be silent regarding multiple de-framing circuits. Therefore, Ogawa, Wilford and Gabrick, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest that the third circuit comprises a plurality of de-framing circuits configured to operate on a plurality of network protocols, wherein each one of the de-framing circuits operates on a corresponding one of the network protocols as presently claimed.

Furthermore, the proposed motivations to modify Ogawa and Gabrick with Wilford appear to be improperly based on the claim. The proposed motivations, (i) "enhance the handling the information associated with the packet" and (ii) "help enhance the software to process information for the assembly" are too general because they could cover almost any alteration contemplated and does not address



why the specific proposed modification would have been obvious. Broad conclusory statements regarding the obviousness of combining/modifying references, standing alone, are not "evidence." As such, the rejection of claim 19 should be withdrawn for lack of evidence of motivation to combine/modify the references.

Furthermore, Gabrick appears to be non-analogous art relative to Ogawa and Wilford based on the respective US classifications. Gabrick appears to have been selected only because it contains the claim phrase "unique network protocol", not because one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it to be analogous art. Therefore, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established. As such, claim 19 is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 20 provides a fourth circuit connected to the second circuit and configured process a select one of the first parameters in the incoming packet in accordance with the corresponding pointer value. The Office Action merely states that the claimed fourth circuit is taught by Yanagihara in FIG. 10A and column 1, lines 51-66:

This invention aims to make it possible to perform rapid decoding of video data and audio data in a receiver/demodulator if there is a program change when a DVCR of the aforesaid type continuously plays back a plurality of digital broadcast programs, and this data is then input to such a receiver/demodulator.

This invention further aims to provide a digital signal recording/playback device and digital signal playback method wherein there is no break in video data and audio data when the output during speed change playback of such a DVCR is input to a receiver/demodulator and decoded.

To resolve the above problems, the digital signal processor according to this invention is characterized in comprising **first means for selecting a transport stream corresponding to any channel from a transport stream** containing a plurality of multiplexed channels, **second means for separating video data and audio data in any desired program ...** (Column 1, lines 51-66) (Emphasis added)

The Office Action appears to be arguing that the first means and the second means of Yanagihara somehow teach or suggest the claimed second circuit and the claimed fourth circuit. However, nowhere in the above text, or in any other section does Yanagihara appear to mention that the a fourth circuit (asserted similar to either the claimed first means or the claimed second means) of Yanagihara is configured to process a selected one of the first parameters (not identified in Yanagihara) in the incoming packet in accordance with the corresponding pointer values (not identified in Yanagihara). Since the pointer values and first parameters are allegedly disclosed in Ogawa, one of ordinary skill in the art would **not** appear to understand how Yanagihara could use the pointer values from another document (or similar intrinsic pointer values) to process and first parameters from the other document (or similar intrinsic first parameters). Therefore, Ogawa and Yanagihara, alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest a fourth circuit connected to a second circuit and configured process at least one of the first parameters in an incoming packet in accordance with a pointer as presently claimed.

Furthermore, the proposed motivations to modify Ogawa with Yanagihara appear to be improperly based on the claim. The proposed motivations, (i) "another circuit would enhance the handling the information associated with the packet" and (ii) "help enhance the software to process information for the assembly" are too general because they could cover almost any alteration

contemplated and does not address why the specific proposed modification would have been obvious. Broad conclusory statements regarding the obviousness of combining/modifying references, standing alone, are not "evidence." As such, the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn for lack of evidence of motivation to combine/modify the references.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

#### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

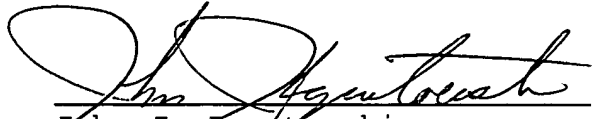
Attached is a PTO-1449 form listing the "PPP Over Simple Data Link (SDL) Using SONET/SDH With ATM-Like Framing" by J. Carlson et al., document originally submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement on 28 August 2003. The Examiner stated during the telephone interview of September 25, 2006 that the above document would be considered upon the submission of only the PTO-1449 form. As such, The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the document then sign and return the attached PTO-1449 form.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office  
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Ignatowski", written over a horizontal line.

John J. Ignatowski  
Registration No. 36,555  
24840 Harper Avenue, Suite 100  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
(586) 498-0670

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